

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4992

DEPT FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR O'GRADY: PLEASE PASS
AFL-CIO AND AIFLD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, SZ, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE TRADE UNION CONSULTATIONS IN
WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 160283

1. 5/25 COMMITTEE MEMBER ROBERTO GARCIA TOLD LABATT IN JUNE 27 PHONECON THAT ARGENTINE TRADE UNION LEADERS WERE FORCED TO SUSPEND TRIP TO US BECAUSE OF "ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS" IN ARGENTINA WHICH TOOK PLACE WHILE THE ILO DELEGATION WAS IN GENEVA AND RELATED PROBLEMS WHICH OCCURRED AMONG THE ARGENTINES IN GENEVA. HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THE ILO DELEGATION WOULD TRAVEL DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON FROM GENEVA AND STATED THAT THE "AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA" (IRVING BROWN?) WAS BRIEFED LAST WEEK ON THE CHANGE IN PLANS AND THE REASONS. (WE ARE NOT CERTAIN IF GARCIA'S INFORMATION COVERS BALDASSINI). GARCIA DID NOT WISH TO AMPLIFY FURTHER OVER THE PHONE, BUT HE HOPED AN OPPORTUNITY COULD BE FOUND TO CARRY OUT TRADE UNION CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AT A LATER DATE.

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2. THERE HAVE BEEN NEWSPAPER REPORTS ABOUT INTRIGUES AMONG THE TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO DID NOT GO TO GENEVA TO REALIGN THE MECHANISMS WHICH SEEK TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE (BEHIND THE BACKS OF THE ILO DELEGATION, SO TO SPEAK). EVIDENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN EFFORTS ON THE PART OF

SOME "VERTICALISTS" OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED
"MOVIMIENTO SINDICAL PERONISTA" (AN OUTGROWTH OF THE
VERTICALIST "COMMITTEE OF 9") AND THE "COMISION DE
GESTION Y TRABAJO" TO FORGE A NEW UNIFIED ORGANIZATION.
IT IS PRESUMABLY THESE RUMINATIONS WHICH MAY POSE A
THREAT TO THE FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF 25 THAT CAUSED
GARCIA AND THE OTHERS TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO BUENOS
AIRES EARLIER THAN SCHEDULED. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER
AS WE DEVELOP MORE RELIABLE INFORMATION.

3. AFL-CIO SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT THE PRO-GOA
PRESS HAS HAD A FIELD DAY BLASTING THE FEBRUARY 1978
ISSUE OF THE AFL-CIO'S "FREE TRADE UNION NEWS" WHICH
FEATURES AN ARTICLE ON THE ARGENTINE LABOR SITUATION.
GOA OFFICIALS ARE REACTING TO ARTICLE'S ATTACK AGAINST
JUNTA LABOR POLICIES INCLUDING ALLEGEDLY DISTORTED
DATA ON WAGES. MASSERA IS ANGRY ABOUT AFL-CIO'S
SURFACING OF ALLEGATIONS THAT HE MASTERMINDED
KIDNAPPINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES (SEE BUENOS AIRES
4929). SOME PAPERS CALL FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF
ARGENTINE TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO ALLEGEDLY CONTRIBUTED
TO THE AFL-CIO VIEWPOINT. LAST WEEK LABATT WAS
INTERROGATED BY NORTH AMERICAN DESK STAFF OF
FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF
AIFLD PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA.

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4. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICISM IN THE PRESS OF
RECENT ICFTU STATEMENTS REGARDING ARGENTINA EVIDENTLY
LIFTED FROM ICFTU NEWS BULLETIN.
CASTRO

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